

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 SAM-01 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 MC-02 SCCT-01 NSC-05 /048 W
----- 038845

R 061410Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3763
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T CAIRO 4517

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, EG, LY
SUBJECT: EGYPTIANS CONFISCATE WEAPONS ENROUTE FROM LIBYA TO PLA

1. WHILE IN MERSA MATRUCH MAY 2, EMBOFFS LEARNED THAT EGYPTIAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE HAD SAME DAY STOPPED 16 LARGE TRUCKS AT BORDER ENROUTE FROM LIBYA AND HAD CONFISCATED WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS VERY LARGE AMOUNT OF WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT PACKED IN CASES ADDRESSED TO PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ARMY (PLA). EMBASSY LOCAL (FSL-3) OVERHEARD EGYPTIAN OFFICER SHOUTING REPORT OF INCIDENT TO HIS CAIRO HEADQUARTERS WHILE WAITING FOR EMBOFFS' PASSES TO SIWA OASIS.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION SAME EVENING WITH BRIGADIER AHMAD HAMDI, CHIEF OF MATRUH GOVERNORATE MILITARY SECURITY, BRIGADIER SURMISED THAT LIBYANS HAD PLANNED INCIDENT TO EMBARRASS GOE. HE SPECULATED THAT LIBYANS, KNOWING THAT EGYPTIANS WOULD CONFISCATE WEAPONS, PLANNED ANNOUNCE EGYPTIANS ACTION AS PROOF THAT GOE HYPOCRITICAL IN ITS PROFESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARDS ARAFAT AND PALESTINIANS AND WAS IN FACT

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OPPOSED TO ALL ASSISTANCE TO THEM.

3. MATRUH GOVERNORATE MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICIALS SEEMED EXTREMELY CONCERNED OVER PAST WEEKEND ABOUT PENETRATION OF LIBYAN-PAID SUBVERSIVES INTO EGYPT. GROUP OF 50 AUC STUDENTS (CHIEFLY EGYPTIAN, AMERICAN, JORDANIAN AND LEBANESE NATIONALITIES) WERE NOT PERMITTED TO CAMP ALONG MEDITERRANEAN COAST DESPITE PREVIOUS ASSURANCES FROM CAIRO AUTHORITIES THAT CAMPING PERMITS EASILY OBTAINABLE. GROUP LEADER TOLD BY GOE SECURITY AUTHORITIES THAT THEY FEARED UNPROTECTED CAMPERS WOULD MAKE EXCELLENT TARGET FOR LIBYAN-PAID BEDOUIN TO STAGE UGLY INCIDENT. BRIGADIER HAMDI CLAIMED THAT GOE HAS HARD INFORMATION THAT LARG ACTIVELY RECRUITING BEDOUIN FROM BORDER TRIBES TO ENGAGE IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT.

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